



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 89

October 27, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives NERISON and VRUWINK. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** declaring October as Co-op Month.

2 Whereas, cooperatives are independent, member-owned and controlled
3 businesses, organized to process and market products and goods for their members;
4 and

5 Whereas, cooperatives serve many needs including credit and financial
6 services, health care, child care, housing, insurance, legal and professional services;
7 and

8 Whereas, cooperatives sell food, farm supplies, hardware, and recreational
9 equipment and provide electricity, telephone, and Internet services; and

10 Whereas, today approximately 2.7 million Wisconsinites depend on
11 approximately 800 cooperatives to provide these needed goods and services; and

12 Whereas, cooperatives help grow Wisconsin's economy, employing more than
13 23,000 Wisconsin residents and recording about \$5.6 billion in gross sales each year;
14 and

Whereas, Wisconsin was one of the first states to enact a law authorizing cooperatives in 1887, spurring the growth of electric, telephone, and agricultural cooperatives and town mutual associations; and

Whereas, the first Wisconsin rural electric cooperatives started in Richland Center and Columbus in May 1937; the Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company was the one of the first telephone companies incorporated in 1905; and the first grain farmer cooperative started in Madison in 1857; and

Whereas, Wisconsin's strong roots as a co-op state continue today since two in every five people in the United States belong to a cooperative; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin legislature declares October 2009 as “Co-op Month” and encourages Badger State residents to recognize the important role that cooperatives play in their every day lives.

(END)